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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appln. Of: SATO et al.

*COPY OF PAPERS  
ORIGINALLY FILED*

Serial No.: 10 019,245

Filed: December 18, 2001

For: PROCESSING METHOD OF PARTICULATE DUST...

DOCKET: SHIG C10505

**RECEIVED**

APR 8 - 2002

**TC 1700**

The Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Dear Sir:

In connection with the above-identified application, Applicant hereby attaches U.S. Patent Office Form PTOL-1449, including copies of the prior art references listed therein. Also enclosed is a copy of U.S. Patent 5,685,914 which is believed to be the U.S. equivalent to JP 8-102460. These references were cited by the Japanese Patent Office in the International Preliminary Examination Report of the underlying PCT patent application. Enclosed also is the Japanese text Search Report, together with an English translation thereof. The claims in the present application are believed to be patentably distinguished over these references.

This prior art disclosure statement is being made pursuant to the duty of disclosure imposed by law and formulated in 37 CFR 1.56(A). No representation is made that the information thus disclosed in fact constitutes prior art or that it is the closest prior art, inasmuch as 37 CFR 1.56(A) relies on a materiality concept which depends on subjectivity.

In compliance with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3), as a concise statement of relevance, as it is presently understood by the individual designated in 35 USC §1.56(c) most

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knowledgeable about the content of the information, the undersigned attorney of record submits a translation of portions of an official action by a foreign examiner in which the reference was cited. The relevance to the pending U.S. Patent application is that the reference was cited in a foreign patent application on the same subject matter. However, no independent analysis of the reference, the accuracy of the statement of the foreign examiner or the claims of the foreign application under the laws of the country or the United States relative to the subject matter claimed in the present application has been made; the present understanding of the contents thereof by the undersigned being based on the translation of the foreign examiner's comments submitted herewith.

The enclosed Prior Art Statement is being submitted within three months of the Japanese Office Action, as certified in the attached Certification for Information Disclosure Statement. Therefore, we believe that there are no fees involved with this prior art disclosure statement. However, in the event there are any fees payable, please charge them to our Deposit Account No. 08-1391.

Respectfully submitted



Norman P. Soloway  
Attorney for Applicants  
Reg. No. 24,315

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on January 26, 1998, at Tucson, Arizona.

By Norman P. Soloway

**EXAMINER:** Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP Section 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.